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ABSTRACT

This collection of nine essays includes three from each of the contributing groups--elementary school, middle school, and high school students. Titles include "Libraries for the People and by the People," "How the Library Helps Us," "Improvements Since the Library Company of Philadelphia," and "Today's Library--A Place for All Seasons." (JAB)

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MASSACHUSETTS GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON LIBRARIES & INFORMATION SERVICES

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PRIZE-WINNING ESSAYS

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TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC) AND USERS OF THE ERIC SYSTEM."

Nine Award-Winners Selected by the Citizens Advisory Committee

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SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

MASSACHUSETTS GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SERVICES

Elementary School

FIRST PRIZE	Tina Klarwasser Grade 4 Joseph Martin School North Attleboro
SECOND PRIZE	Ellen Marie Martin Grade 3 Forest Avenue School Hudson
THIRD PRIZE	Jennifer Samsel Grade 5 Kennedy School Canton

Middle School

FIRST PRIZE	Meg Phillips Grade 9 Wellesley Junior High School Wellesley
SECOND PRIZE	Frances Mitchell Grade 7 Raymond E. Shaw Memorial Middle School Millbury
THIRD PRIZE	Susan Chebookjian Grade 8 Kennedy Junior High School Waltham

High School

FIRST PRIZE	Scott Matthews Grade 10 Reading Memorial High School Reading
SECOND PRIZE	Judy Bell Grade 11 Georgetown Junior-Senior High School Georgetown
THIRD PRIZE	Paige Whitley Grade 11 Andover High School Andover

First Prize - Elementary

by Tina Klarwasser
Grade 4
Joseph Martin School
North Attleboro, Ma.

Libraries...for the People...by the People

The library preserves and distributes knowledge and education of all kinds. It collects enormous varieties of ideas and information, to meet everybody's needs. In addition to the popular public library, there are many other kinds of libraries. Hospitals have libraries, as well as large businesses and factories; even museums and symphony orchestras have them. Of course there are school and college libraries too.

All sorts of people come to the library for many reasons. Businessmen come to read up on ways to make their businesses better. Someone who would want to open up a new business could find information on how to do it in the library. The library can help professionals too, by keeping them up to date in their work. For instance, doctors can find out about new drugs and new cures for their patients. The everyday man can discover hobbies, read about how to fix the car, or how to fix things around the house at night that the kids broke in the daytime.

The library is definitely for kids. It is a place where they can meet and have fun with the programs and books which the library provides. Mothers think it is a great place for them to be, instead of sitting in front of the television set. For kids who have nothing to do, the library offers hundreds of ideas on hobbies and leisure-time activities.

Besides books for bookworms, the library offers records and tapes, and shows movies. It invites people from the community to hold exhibits and put on programs. This way, people can become involved in the library.

In the summer the library arts-and-crafts bus used to come once a week to our old neighborhood and made our summer fun more creative. We looked forward to its coming, even though the bus stopped in the same pebbly place every week, and we had to suffer the consequences to our bare feet.

The library is a communication center. It brings people and ideas together and gets everyone involved in their world.

And last but not least, for the rich or poor, the library is free to all!

2nd Prize - Elementary

by Ellen Marie Martin
Grade 3
Forest Avenue School
Hudson, Mass.

"LIBRARIES...FOR THE PEOPLE...BY THE PEOPLE"

I am really glad that we have libraries because I like to read and find information. I also like to use the card catalog to find the books that I really want the most.

I first learned how to use a library when I was in the first grade. The librarian was very nice. I liked her because when we came into the library she welcomed us and had interest in us. It is very important to me that we are welcomed because if I know that she is nice to my classmates and me then I know that she is friendly and that she will have a desire to help me. Since that first experience, I have found that most librarians are very nice and eager to help.

There are many different kinds of libraries depending on the people they serve. I believe that libraries are for the people because people go for all sorts of help. Men and women go to the library for information needed in their work. Students use the library for help in their studies. Teachers go to the library for information for their students.

Sometimes libraries are divided into two sections - a children's section and a grown-ups' section. Both sections can be used for pleasure and spare time enjoyment. The children's section sometimes shows movies or has a story hour. This is another reason why it is for the people because it is for people of all ages. Story hour is usually for pre-school children who can't read yet. The grown-up section has many different kinds of magazines, newspapers, record albums and tapes which may be taken home to read or listen to.

Not all books can go out of the library. Reference books must remain in the library so they will always be available for everyone's use.

Libraries can often be used by the people for exhibiting different collections such as dolls and antiques or as display rooms for different organizations such as the Girl Scouts.

It is the librarian's job to find out which books would be best for the people of the town to use. They talk to school teachers, other librarians, parents and the children so that books for information and pleasure are the right kinds wanted by the many different types of people who use the library.

Not all books are written in English. They might be written in any of the many other languages. This is a big help to those who can not read our language but will still be able to use the library.

Even the blind can read books with a system called "Braille". This system works by six raised dots used in many different combinations and the person moves his fingers over them and is able to read what he can not see. Also available to blind people are "talking books" which are records made especially for blind people so they can read just by listening.

Because libraries are people helping other people, I think they are great! A good example of this was the help I got from the librarian and from the two books I took out when I wanted to write this essay on "LIBRARIES...FOR THE PEOPLE...BY THE PEOPLE".

3rd Prize - Elementary

by Jennifer Samsel
Grade 5
John F. Kennedy School
Canton, Mass.

LIBRARIES

Libraries - Most people say they are just places with books you can take home. They are much more. To me, libraries are places filled with information, ideas and excitement.

The world library comes from a Latin word "librer" meaning book. Today's libraries offer much more than just books.

Libraries have many different kinds of materials. A school library would probably have books, records, films, and maybe tapes. Public libraries have many other things, such as maps, pictures, magazines, and newspapers. They have card catalogs to find these materials.

Card catalogs have drawers with cards inside, arranged in alphabetical order. There are at least three cards for a book. There is a title card, a subject card, and an author card. To find a book, you could use either card. Written on the card will be where to find the book.

Books in a library are arranged by numbers. This is called the Dewey Decimal System.

There are special libraries that have things such as Braille books for the blind. Others have books, magazines, and newspapers written in foreign languages.

Many libraries, such as in our town, have special programs. They have speakers, art displays, crafts, demonstrations, and information on things as different as growing vegetables and poetry.

Many libraries have special things for children of all ages. Some show movies, some have educational toys and puzzles. Others have craft hours and puppet shows. Nearly all have story hours and summer reading programs.

Libraries were first started as a system of communication and education. I'm sure the first librarians would be surprised to see the changes today.

Some libraries loan art, sculpture, and paintings. We even have libraries on wheels. Bookmobiles bring books to people who wouldn't be able to get to the library.

From the time I could first print my name, I started using libraries. I signed my first card in very big letters. Going to the library has always been fun for me. As I get older, the enjoyment seems to grow too. Every year there are more books I can read and understand. No matter what kind of mood I'm in, I can always find something to catch my interest.

I'm having even more fun now because I can get books to read to my little sister. She likes libraries too.

Now that I'm older, I can work in our school library during recess. I help the librarian put away books, cover books, and stamp cards. This gives me a special chance to see what new books I might like.

First Prize - Middle School

by Meg Phillips
Grade 9
Wellesley Jr. High
Wellesley, Mass.

LIBRARIES FOR THE PEOPLE AND BY THE PEOPLE

A library is much more than just a place to do homework or check out an occasional book. A library is a living record of man's progress from the Stone Age to the Space Age. Through libraries men communicate their visions and experiences from generation to generation. Libraries are bridges to the future as well as stepping stones to the past. They house the most explosive and dynamic of all man's creations -- his ideas. And libraries take part in the most exciting of all man's activities--the development of ideas.

For many people, going to the library is an important activity which lasts a lifetime. Many parents introduce their children to libraries even before the children have learned to read. For students, a library is a place where they can pursue knowledge beyond their classrooms, beyond their textbooks, and even beyond their teachers. Moreover, libraries are essential to the work of a growing number of adults, and as a result, libraries are serving a larger number of people every year.

Many of us associate libraries solely with books, though they also provide many other forms of recreation. Collections of records, art, movies, and other audio-visual materials can provide hours of enjoyment as well as knowledge. In addition, libraries can help people carry on their hobbies. For example, a coin collector can find books, magazines, and other materials to help him with his hobby.

Public libraries range in size from large libraries with dozens of branches, to small-town one-room libraries. No matter what their size or where they are located though, all public libraries have the same goal --serving the needs of education and the community.

In libraries one can find information on countless topics, time periods, and ideas. In one day you could trace your ancestors, or rediscover America with Columbus. You could take a rocket to Mars, or be the first woman president. Libraries are the keys to the future as well as the keys to the past.

An essential and steadily growing innovation provided by libraries is the concept of the "story hour." This is a time when young children are read to by library personnel or volunteers. The youngsters are exposed to delightful books and stories which they are often unable to read themselves.

Today's public library must be more than a storehouse of printed material open to anyone who wants to use it. It must be more than a center for leisure-time activity. The public library of today must play an active role in education for people of all ages throughout their lives.

Everyday, young people and adults must learn to solve new problems and to adjust to new ways of life. Change and growth are essential in our world. The public libraries and the librarians who operate them certainly play a vital role in educating today's children and adults so that they may live in a better world tomorrow.

2nd Prize - Middle School

by Frances Mitchell
Grade 7
Raymond E. Shaw Memorial
Middle School
Millbury, Mass.

IMPROVEMENTS SINCE THE LIBRARY COMPANY OF PHILADELPHIA

An elderly white-haired man with spectacles and a cane hobbled through the Worcester Public Library. At the information desk he inquired, "Excuse me, sir, my name is Benjamin Franklin. This library is new to me. It is quite different from The Library Company of Philadelphia."

"Well, Mr. Franklin," replied the incredulous librarian, "there have been many improvements in the library system since then."

"It must be difficult to memorize all the books in the library?"

"We don't memorize the books; we use the Dewey Decimal System. In 1876 Melvin Dewey invented the Dewey Decimal System which catagorizes each book according to its subject and then numbers it so it can be easily found and catalogued."

"When searching for a book, how would one find its number and its place in the library?"

"To find a book, you look it up in the card catalog. Each book is listed on three different cards: a subject, a title, and an author card. In the left hand corner of each card is the book's number. To find the book, shelves in each section of the library are arranged in numerical order.

"The library doesn't just have books any longer. For audio-visual uses it has art prints, sculpture, 16 mm. films, filmstrips, records, cassettes, and microfilms on loan. In addition, over the years we have made many discoveries in library uses of technology. For the handicapped we have talking books and reference by telephone. Also we now use computer cataloging. With this system a person doesn't have to read through each new book to see under what subject heading it should be placed. Instead we just ask the computer what subject heading other libraries have used for the new book. This system eliminates much time which enables us to get the books on the shelves quicker. Another major achievement is the inter-library loan, through which we can borrow books from libraries all over the world."

In amazement Mr. Franklin requested, "Does the library have any special programs or activities for elderly people and children?"

"We have a children's room with a puppet theater, " responded the librarian, "with special programs such as weekly storyhours and craftdays. For the elderly we have direct books by mail which we send to those who can not get to the library. By checking the books they would like, we send them the books they have chosen. The library also has bookmobiles running throughout the city and neighboring towns for those who can not reach the library."

"Does the library have newspapers on loan?"

"Yes, we have newspapers from around the world. Local newspapers come in daily and foreign ones come in weekly; however, newspapers are only for reference and not on loan. We also have other periodicals such as magazines."

"This library is so intriguing. I must visit the periodical section and acquaint myself with the current events. May I ask where the periodical section is located?"

"Yes. You will find the periodicals just around the corner."

"It is just unbelievable the improvements that have been made in the library system. Not only do you have thousands of books in a wide variety but also a catalog for quick reference. You no longer have books alone for reference, but technological wonders in use here at the library."

"Mr. Franklin, you're not the only one who has learned something this afternoon. I have always thought of the library's wonderful systems and machines as nothing special because they were always there. You have opened my eyes to a new and exciting world I had always taken for granted."

"I am glad I have helped you. I trust we will meet again soon." Then he slowly turned and hobbled down the hall.

3rd Prize - Middle School

by Susan Chebookjian
Grade 8
Kennedy Jr. High
Waltham, Mass.

HOW THE LIBRARY HELPS US

"Hurry up Mom! The picture show starts in fifteen minutes," hollered Sam. Mrs. Palmer grabbed her coat and keys and rushed to the car. Sammy and she jumped in and drove off.

Mrs. Palmer was taking her son to see a slide show presentation on animals at the public library. Every month the library has a film show on different topics. Sam never takes advantage of these shows but seeing how much he adored animals, he couldn't resist the opportunity. Sam's mother dropped him off not planning to return for two hours.

As Sammy approached the projection room, much to his surprise, he saw a handful of people, and to his astonishment, he discovered the slide show had been postponed until the following week. Sam was disappointed and wondered how he would pass the time. He was unable to contact his mother and he lived too far away to walk home so he decided to browse around.

The first room he entered was the main reading room. He observed many of the books and was amazed to see so many different types of reading material. Biographies, autobiographies, mysteries, and science fiction books are some of the many kinds of selections he saw. The humorous books interested him most. Adjoining this room was the Reference Room containing catalogs and encyclopedias for all age groups. Sammy glanced through a few of the reference books and found a considerable amount of information. Continuing his tour, Sam came upon the Periodic Room which was filled with magazines and newspapers galore. He enjoyed reading articles from way back when and found it amusing to compare things from years ago to the present day. The highlight of Sammy's journey was going through the Music Room. This room was filled with more records and tapes than you can imagine. For Sam this was a fun treat. He's a big music lover and enjoyed listening to his favorite songs. The Music Room doesn't contain music alone however. It has many books on musicians and the history of music.

At that moment, Sammy glanced at the clock and was pleased to find he had another hour before he was to meet his mother. It is very unusual for Sam to want to stay at a library. He's the type who wouldn't go to the library unless he absolutely had to.

As Sam moved onward, he arrived at a room and was surprised to find it locked. He asked a passing librarian what the room was and why it was locked. She told him that it was the Fine Arts Room and explained to him that it was filled with original manuscripts which were very rare and precious. She offered to open the door and show him around if he was interested. He was excited and agreed to go in. The librarian showed Sam the most gorgeous paintings and some original books. A few of the books Sammy had already read and enjoyed dis - cussing them with the librarian, Miss O'Brien. Sam was quite impressed with rare beauties and couldn't bear leaving the room. He thanked the librarian kindly for her time and hospitality and promised to visit her again soon.

Miss O'Brien suggested that Sam visit the Children's Room. She said that it was a sight for him to see the children working so quietly and diligently. As he proceeded to go into the room, he was surprised to see the number of young children working there. Sam thought that libraries were used only by older children and adults. He wondered what fun he must have missed by not going to the library when he was younger. The children were occupied by a variety of different things. Some of the youngsters were reading, some were drawing, and others were just looking around. "How much easier it would be to study here compared to my noisy house," thought Sam.

The next room Sammy came upon was filled with all sorts of files. He couldn't imagine what the files were used for but soon came to learn he was standing the Catalog Room. The Catalog Room contained files of every book in the library. All you had to do was to look up the title of the book you wanted and the card would tell you where in the library that particular book could be found. They also had cross reference files. In other words, if you wanted to find information on a specific topic and needed to know the name of the book, you could refer to the cross reference file. Likewise, using only the author's name, you can find additional books written by him.

Although there was more to see, Sammy realized that his mother should be arriving soon to pick him up. He couldn't wait to tell her all the knowledge he had acquired. Sammy learned how much you can do in a library; he learned how much fun he could have in a library; but most of all, he learned how the library can help us.

First Prize - High School

by Scott Matthews
Grade 10
Reading Memorial
High School
Reading, Mass.

LIBRARIES:
FOR THE PEOPLE.....BY THE PEOPLE

President of Bowdoin College, William De Witt Hyde (1885-1917) stated:..."to carry the keys of the world's library in one's pocket and feel its resources behind one in whatever task he undertakes...." is essentially to carry the keys of knowledge in your pockets. This has been true since 6th Century B.C. when the first known archives of a library were excavated and has remained true, all the way up the ladder of history to the largest library in the workd, The Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. The establishment of libraries throughout the nation has spread to an all time high, through the initiative of local groups and the willing cooperation of many communities. Libraries have existed for a long time because of the people. The library benefits all walks of life, and serves all individuals as a privileged right.

A librarian is a professional in the finest meaning of the term. The modern American librarian has the complex task of evaluating, correlating and selecting literature, organizing materials for use, and searching for information, plus a wide assortment of other chores that requires a special knowledge to serve users of an American library. The librarians throughout the world have taken intricate methods of processing the library materials and turned the complex subject matter into a system which can be used with ease by all users and potential users of the library. The processes range from classification of books to cataloguing materials which results in a greater interpretation of how the library system functions.

Throughout the United States, libraries have been built to allow physically handicapped to live a more normal life. The distinguished library service for the blind has made it possible for the blind to take complete advantage of available library resources which are specially prepared for the physically handicapped. The people who take advantage of the federal regional centers may do so by direct visitations, or by the mail which is a beneficial service, set up by the Federal Government. Braille writers, handwriting guides, specially adapted wood and metal working tools are some of the items which help the blind understand the world they cannct see.

Libraries are slowly becoming popular in hospitals for both the patients and for the aspiring young medical students. The libraries consist of educational and recreational facilities for the patients.

The medical library in a hospital serves the professional staff of the hospital, and the nursing library serves student and graduate nurses. Another idea is to have libraries and other available materials to the people within prisons and reformatories. It has been said that the library programs have made significant contributions to the treatment of the sentenced offender.

A private collection of books may be called a library. Books are selected and the collection is brought together. It is stored in a large room and may be stored on attractive shelves and meanwhile decorate a room. Books are beautiful. They add color, life, knowledge and beauty to any room and to its owner. In a way, the library is a status symbol. It is the owner's display of world knowledge, refinement, his cultural tastes, but even more important the library shows the collector's inner knowledge. A library both public and private may consist of books from a wide variety of subjects such as fiction or non-fiction, art, business, medicine, history and geneology, to mention a few.

The library has many services to offer to the users, and potential users. The libraries contain recordings, films, microfilm, microprints, pictures and slides, as well as all forms of printed matter. All the aids in a library are easily accessible. A card is available in various ways. It is simpler to obtain a library card than to open a charge or bank account. The library provides a place for talks or meetings for literary, cultural, or civic purposes. The library represents a selection in major areas for the use of the public, for example, literature, art, religion, travel, business, biography, science and education.

A major agency for adult, children, and handicapped education in many United States communities is in the public library. The library is a service to all groups; children, young people, and adults.....all walks of life, regardless of race, creed, or origin. The library is used by all and all contribute to the library. Anyone who understands the purpose of the library, can open the knowledge door. The library is open to all. It is one of the few things in this world that likes to be used.

2nd Prize - High School

by Judy Bell
Grade 11
Georgetown Jr. Sr.
High School
Georgetown, Mass.

"LIBRARIES ... FOR THE PEOPLE ... BY THE PEOPLE"

From Benjamin Franklin in Philadelphia to Instructional Media and Research Centers across the country, libraries have always been a part of the American way of life. From the earliest book societies to complicated microfilm forms of book lending, the purpose of libraries has been to inform the public and present opportunities to the masses. Libraries are vast resource centers, available to all who desire to use their services. The American dream of knowledge, and subsequent opportunity for all, is certainly fulfilled by the system of public and private libraries.

A library is not a stagnant book depository, waiting only to catch fire. It is a tremendously alive place, pulsating with the stories of old, distant lands, facts and figures, research into the future, and varied opinions. This information keeps the society it serves interested, and above all, informed. A library need not only be books. It may consist of pamphlets, catalogues, magazines, films, video tapes, film strips and newspapers - all important sources of information. A library may involve just one facet of the information sources, or all of them. The flexibility depends on many external factors. But, one thing is for certain; a library is very helpful and informative.

One thing an American library is not is a politically controlled element of propoganda. Controversy thrives on the shelves of a library. Books and essays on Marx lay side by side with books on the capitalist system of government. Shakespeare rests with Albee, and Gone With the Wind jousts with Roots. Most importantly, Americans are presented with the facts and research as well as opinions to make their own decisions on many topics. The American system has always prided itself on presenting issues fairly. The American system has always prided itself on letting its citizens choose between different values and lifestyles. Libraries are an intrinsic portion of the American system. Many libraries and information services now freely cooperate with each other to gather even more information. Regional libraries, book-mobiles, cooperative cards and dual memberships now add many sources of information to the already burgeoning system. People in towns can and should share their resources with others while gaining from other community libraries. Book-mobiles and book coalitions allow a citizen to specifically request unusual reading materials and receive them, within days. The system of communications has never been better.

The distribution of information is vital to a societies' continuation. Citizens must be informed of issues, and aware of past precedents. Through information and careful thought, people can make decisions that will be in the best interest of the majority. Libraries are a way of laying the groundwork for careful decision - making and guarantees of good decisions in the future.

Cultural events in the areas of fine arts, festivals, art showings, visiting lecturers, book reviews and literature courses are often given at libraries. Concerts, ensemble groups and solo artists may appear at libraries to educate and entertain. These events are just as enlightening and as informative as any encyclopedia. A library's capacity to expand its horizons is exactly what has caused the growth of America. New knowledge and new opportunities have entered the scene, and must be passed on to the public. A library does that job.

Libraries have grown tremendously throughout the past decades. Growing from a select group of books lent to only a chosen few, to a many faceted media center; libraries have kept up with the complexity of our society. In the next decades, libraries should keep growing and adding to their reserves of knowledge. Many libraries should expand their hours to give the people more chance to use the facilities. Paperback swap systems should be set up, and more best sellers should be purchased. Libraries should have comfortable resource areas for quiet study as well as large tables for group work. Copy machines, collators, pen and pencil vending machines, and paper should be available for use. Public notices and information should be posted in libraries, as well as sale and swap notices. The library should be civically minded, sponsoring debates between candidates, lectures, and films. The library should serve as a type of community center for the public.

A library is a room of facts, figures and notions. The keys to the room are reading, investigating and looking. The door opens to knowledge and enlightenment and the windows view the world. The frame is the experiences of the past, filed in majestic splendor in hard-covered books. The world of fantasy, the realm of magic and splendor becken, the mortar between the hard facts of life. Upon the foundation of statistics and facts lie the substance of the library, the very many different opinions of people. They conflict, contradict and argue, but are never dull. There is no roof on a library, because knowledge is always growing, and cannot be limited.

A library is for the people and by the people... but most of all, a library is for using.

3rd Prize - High School

by Paige Whitley
Grade 11
Andover High School
Andover, Mass.

TODAY'S LIBRARY - A PLACE FOR ALL SEASONS

Voltaire would weep for joy, Plato would stare
What is it, easier than a church to enter,
Politer than a department store, this center
That like Grand Central leads to everywhere?

(from the "Public Library")

Just a few decades ago, the American public library was a smug, impressive edifice that housed a multitude of books and scholarly patrons. From that image has grown an institution of psychedelic colors and rock music, bookmobiles and puppet shows, travel shows and busy meetings - today's library has truly become a place for all seasons and a place for all people.

This library for today's needs is a complex combination of people and ideas. First, always, are the people: readers who find a new life in books; scholars who seek wisdom in the ideas of others, librarians who collect, preserve, and locate ideas and who evolve new ideas of their own to make the ideas of others more accessible to those who need them. The ideas - the other elements in this compound - are not embodied only in type on paper but are found on film and tape and disc as well. And the computer is fast becoming as essential in today's library as the card catalog was in yesterday's.

To say that the library is reaching out is not a phrase without meaning. The library <u>is</u> reaching out in many ways - for those in the growing demand for media, for children now learning faster and easier through different styles, for the disadvantaged, who better themselves through the library's services, for the far-visioned who see libraries joined internationally for <u>all</u> mankind.

In years past, librarians were merely concerned about the breadth of library service. They broadened their collections to represent many points of view, to treat many subjects, and to suit many tastes. By means of branches and stations and bookmobiles they extended services through the community. More recently, libraries have been reaching out into the depth and height of library services as well as the breadth. They have entered the lesser known worlds of automation and new techniques. In earlier years, the mind produced the machine to serve the mind, freeing it of the monotony of repetitive tasks in its search for truth.

Here then is a library - and a staff - reaching out into the community in every conceivable manner, no longer waiting only for those who would come of their own accord, finding the real needs of the people, and satisfying those needs - with something for everyone! In meeting these needs, the library provides relief from the regular routine of the daily program. It provides the inspiration when an idea is needed. It is a first-aid station where the visitor can get sympathetic advice and direction, and when help is needed, the library is ready to offer it.

Despite radio and television, movies and comics, and other benefits of civilization, reading remains an essential part of our daily lives. We read for many reasons: for enjoyment, information, or just to pass the time away; however, the library is more than a vast storage house of print, and many patrons are now finding this out.

Film is a communicative art and as such has a legitimate and equal place with print media in library service. While some libraries with more "traditional" book-oriented patrons have yet to feel the demand for film collections, the advance of film technology and inexpensive projectors, cartridge films, and the like, will eventually create the greatest demand from this middle-class audience. We are just beginning to hear from the first generation that has grown up with television as a household necessity - and thus, to a large extent, films! Nethertheless, it is true that people who do not put a high priority on the print media because of bilingual, lack of incentive, little opportunity for formal schooling, or whatever have found film a particularly meaningful communicator for them.

The problem libraries are now working on is how to advise our new multimedia generation and our non-print public that we provide services in their fields of interest and that one of these services is film. This is true film "outreach" - not as a lever for circulation but as an end in itself.

It is often said that the love of reading is caught, not taught. Public library service to children, the major goal of which is to spread the "contagion", has been called a creative, positive, and significant profession. Continuous training, constant reading, and book selection that tries to find the best and weed out the insignificant are all directed to the end that the librarian can call on his own mind's store and bring into focus the book which will answer each child's immediate need, whether or not that need is articulate.

The library's awareness of its responsibility to serve parents and their children is clearly demonstrated. In addition to the various book services to children, libraries engage in story hours and kiddie films for preschool and younger children, and "Teen Scene" bookshelves, Young Adult Book Review Clubs, and poetry labs. It is clear that public library service to children is rewarding to the individual and valuable to society because it has depth and content and because it challenges ability.

Libraries cannot directly provide money to the poor, restore eyesight, grant new limbs or good health, restore youth to the old, cure a hereditary or incurable mental condition, change the color of a person's skin, or bring about his release from a prison or other institution of confinement. But there are a multitude of ways in which libraries can help all the above, disadvantaged in one way or another, by reorientating their thinking or by providing them tools of economic betterment. Libraries can help the elderly obtain needed information or pass their leisure hours with greater contentment; they can assist in removing language barriers, help break down racial discrimination; provide material and machinery to combat illiteracy, both total and functional; and make it easier for the physically handicapped by furnishing them material for rehabilitation and by erecting buildings the physically handicapped can easily use.

Nations today are closely interrelated, and libraries are reflecting this. Educational associations and ministries of education are supporting book publication in native languages, are making studies of library services available to schools to their countries, and are promoting national library centers to coordinate and develop programs. Libraries are reaching out to newcomers in the United States, are embracing them and their customs, while at the same time are helping them to adjust and learn.

Perhaps this trend is a foreshadowing of the future, where there will be no barriers, and all will share knowledge. Spurred on by Jusserand's admonition that "The future is not in the hands of Fate, but in ours," we must plan for the time ahead. Our successors will expect this of us as we expected it of our predecessors. And our plans should be based on the faith that together the book, the hardware, the librarian, and the reader will light up the future, as they will have illuminated the past.